

# Alcohol banned from some state lakes

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) has banned all alcohol — including 3.2 percent malt beverages — from state fishing lakes in many parts of the state.

Intoxicated drivers, trash, vandalism, fights, rowdy parties that disturb other lake users, and lack of law enforcement manpower are among reasons for the move.

“Drinking at our state fishing lakes has gotten to be a big problem,” said James Hulbert, public lands manager for KDWP. “We have intoxicated drivers leaving lakes. Almost every weekend last year at Pottawatomie Lake Number 2, either the state or neighbors had to patch fences where vehicles drove through them. Since we banned alcohol there Jan. 1, we haven’t had to fix one fence.”

“In addition to trash in the areas, our pit toilets were constantly vandalized when drinkers threw cans and bottles in. It should cost \$125 to have the pit toilets pumped, but one contractor took eleven 33-gallon bags of trash out of a pit and had to charge \$450 to cover the extra time spent picking out trash. Ninety percent of it was beer cans and bottles.”

Hulbert also noted that alcohol has been the cause of many fights at lakes and that families have threatened to abandon lakes because of the rowdy, sometimes dangerous behavior of drinkers.

Currently, the following lakes are closed to all alcohol possession or use: Rooks State Fishing Lake, Atchison State Fishing Lake, Douglas State Fishing Lake, Leavenworth State Fishing Lake, Middle Creek Lake, Miami State Fishing Lake, Pillsbury Crossing Wildlife Area, Pottawatomie State Fishing Lake No. 1, Pottawatomie State Fishing Lake No. 2, Shawnee State Fishing Lake, Pratt Backwaters, Kingman State Fishing Lake, Black Kettle State Fishing Lake, McPherson State Fishing Lake, Chase State Fishing Lake, Butler State Fishing Lake, Cowley State Fishing Lake, Lyon State Fishing Lake, and Montgomery State Fishing Lake.

If problems persist, more lakes may be added in the future.

For more information, contact the nearest office of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

## Grant money available for recreational trails

There’s good news for local communities interested in developing recreational trails, but projects seeking funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) will have to wait.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has announced that funding will be available for recreational trails grants, as Congress reauthorized the Recreational Trails Act last year.

Public entities interested in developing

trails may download the application at [www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us). Applications for this grant will be accepted until Aug. 1, 2006.

Due to lack of federal funding, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is not accepting applications for federal grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Federal funding has been extremely limited this year, and no local side funding is available.

Interested persons can submit their questions via email at the KDWP website.

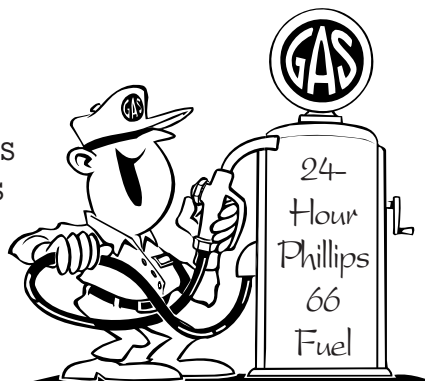


Sammy Batson, Norton, used a nightcrawler to bring in this 4 pound, 8 ounce, 21 1/2 inch wiper on May 14.



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